

of what the two may have been like, they were awesome people and would have been seemed doubly so to others in their communities. I have visited the Smith and Flanagan home sites and having grown up in the general area can appreciate the hard work they did during their lives. I see some of the same attributes in their descendents in varying degrees.

We are all a mixture of our forbearers. It is exciting to see evidence of the better characteristics come to the forefront as often as it does. Wouldn't it be wonderful to spend a day talking with people like Jesse and Archibald -- and their wives too? Maybe then we could understand our own strong points and shortcomings.

Footnote by Leon Martin Flanagan:

The attached paper by Jay Flanagan about his great grandfathers, are my great grandfathers also.

Jay's father, Arch J. Flanagan, and my father, Leon Smith Flanagan, were double first cousins. This unique relationship was as a result of two of the three marriages between Jesse's children and Archibald's children as described in Jay's paper.

John Hardy Flanagan and Nannie Bathsheba Smith, his wife, mentioned in Jay's paper were my Grandfather and Grandmother, though not Jay's Grandparents.

Jay's Grandparents were Arch Jay Flanagan and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Smith.

Jay and I have been lifelong friends, and we are some kind of cousins. We never figured out whether we are second, double second, third, double third or what. The most important relationship is that we are friends.

Thelma Flanagan (mentioned in Jay's paper, was Aunt Thelma, my father's sister (a maiden lady "by her own choice"). She died just short of her 100th birthday.

I suspect that the spelling of "Flanekin" was probably a result of lack of education, spelling ability, or such, rather than an intentional change in spelling. I reach this conclusion due to the fact that the name has been spelled "Flanagan" as far back as 1698 and other more recent records where the spelling has been "Flannikin", "Flannakin", etc. The Flanagan family bible (John Hardy Flanagan lineage) shows the name, in most instances as "Flanagan", but also as "Flanekin".

Leon Martin Flanagan
West Palm Beach, Florida
4/3/06